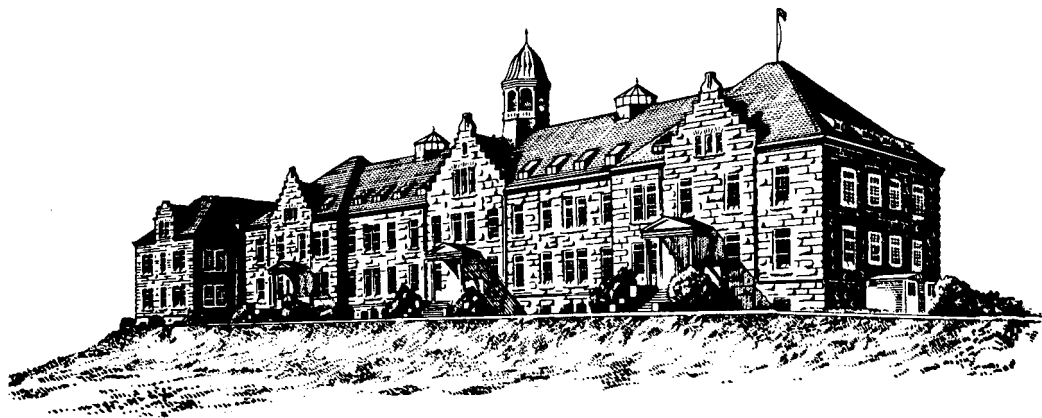


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THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

GRADUATION EXERCISES
FOR THE FOURTH CLASS OF THE
NAVAL STAFF COURSE

14 JUNE 1974



28 JANUARY - 14 JUNE 1974

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NAVAL STAFF COURSE

Lieutenant Commander Mario Francisco Campos Filho
Brazilian Navy

Major James Kenneth Millar
Canadian Forces

Lieutenant Commander Miao Yung-Ching
Republic of China Navy

Lieutenant Ivan Antonio Vargas Cespedes
Dominican Republic Navy

Lieutenant Commander Wilfried Gebhard Stallmann
Federal German Navy

Lieutenant Commander Joseph Willie Boateng
Ghana Navy

Lieutenant Commander Taghi Ghavami
Imperial Iranian Navy

Lieutenant Commander John Joseph Kavanagh
Irish Naval Service

Major Samuel Suero
Kenya Navy

Lieutenant Commander Im Yi
Khmer Navy

Lieutenant Commander Jesus Abarabar Arenas
Philippine Navy

Lieutenant Commander Mohammad Abdullah Ajlan
Royal Saudi Naval Force

Lieutenant Commander Gonzalo Rodriguez Martin-Granizo
Spanish Navy

Lieutenant Commander Sunant Pattanavong
Royal Thai Navy

Lieutenant Christopher Hugh Donnithorne
Royal Navy

Lieutenant Commander Elwood Lloyd Gibson
United States Navy

Lieutenant Commander Tong Khac Tuan
Navy of the Republic of Vietnam

PROGRAM

Invocation

Commander E. Blant Ferguson
Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy

Introductory Remarks

Captain Jack Q. Quinn, U.S. Navy
Director, Naval Staff Course

Address

Vice Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College

Presentation of Diplomas

Vice Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College

The National Anthem

NAVAL STAFF COURSE

GRADUATION REMARKS

1000 Friday 14 June 1974

Graduates and friends of the fourth Naval Staff Course class, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today marks the successful completion of five demanding months work. It has been a time of intellectual challenge of deepening awareness, and of professional growth. Intellectual challenge in trying to remember all your national holidays, your anniversary, and your wife's birthday in order to fill out the Personal Information form, deepening awareness when you discovered you couldn't buy a \$1000 car for \$200, and professional growth as you kept reminding yourself to drive on the right side of the road, or experienced your first free-form driving in the snow.

Yes, during these last 5 months you've been acclimating yourself to a different way of life. For some it has been easier than for others, but for all of you it has been an important part of your total experience here in the United States. And it's a part to which each of you has made a special contribution by your presence here. You each brought to Newport unique naval experiences as well as the embodiment of your country's cultural heritage. Through questioning and sharing, you have learned from each other as well as from the formal course of study. Your contribution has been no less than the

Naval War College's - and, really that's what this course is all about. It is a sharing of ideas and knowledge with the objective of developing professionally and preparing for greater responsibility in your own Navy.

I think it's appropriate to ask what, if any difference has your participation in the Naval Staff Course made from the point of view of your Navy and mine for the long term? In July of 1970, the idea of a Naval Staff Course for middle grade international officers was conceived by the Chief of Naval Operations. It was not a radical idea because an international course for senior officers has existed here for many years as you know. But would a similar course for junior officers be worth the expense and effort? Was it really needed? After determining that there was considerable interest in such a course in both the United States and your countries, the Naval War College set about creating it. The first class convened in August of 1972. Your class is the fourth to graduate. Seventeen nations are represented - three for the first time (Ireland-Canada-Kenya). The first Irish Naval Officer ever to come to the U.S. for training is a member of your class as well as the first military officer ^{of any service} from Kenya.

To date, 28 nations have sent students to this course, and with Class Five, it appears that the number will climb to 32.

Long term benefits from the Naval Staff course can only be measured by you individually, but they probably are a

function of the kinds of challenges you faced here and how you handled them.

Perhaps the most basic challenge, and one that's easy to overlook, is the necessity to function nearly 100 per cent of the time in the American language. (I use the term "American" in deference to the sensibilities of your Royal Navy colleague (LT. Chris Donnithorne) whose countrymen look on English as quite a separate language from American). At any rate, you have spoken, written, and read in this foreign and often illogical language most of the time. Although your language capabilities were well above average to begin with, I'm sure you are more comfortable in English than you were on arrival. This is important because a common language serves as a meeting ground for ideas - not just today but in the future.

A second challenge lies in the nature of people. As I've already mentioned, you came to this course from diverse backgrounds and cultures. You do not necessarily share the same ideological or political beliefs. Sometimes your views have been diametrically opposite a classmates'. No one expects these differences will be resolved as a result of attending this course, but if issues can be discussed freely, valuable insights into each others' thinking can be gained and understanding will result. *Many of our* goals are the same. With improved understanding, we will be better able to help one another in attaining these common goals. That is why the ability to

communicate is a fundamental requirement for sustained peace between nations. Representatives of different countries do talk to each other here and, what's more important, they continue to talk to each other after they return home. Minor issues, which have a tendency to become major problems when there is a lack of communication, can be resolved.

Certainly your willingness to be open-minded and listen to each others point of view has permitted an exchange of ideas that otherwise would have been impossible.

A third challenge was the course itself. You have participated in a demanding and varied curriculum. Management, Strategy, Tactics, and Operational Planning have been studied. You've devoted a considerable portion of your after-class time to reading assignments, and when a bilingual dictionary is often a necessary adjunct to this process, particularly during the early weeks of the course, the academic demands can seem herculean.

But, today it is all behind you. I hope what you've learned here, both in and outside of the classroom, will serve you well. After you've returned home, assumed your new duties, and have a chance to reflect a bit, I ask you to write to me and let me know what you think of the whole experience. What you are finding the most useful, What you needed more of, What

you would change. Your comments will be considered most seriously and will help to improve the course for those who follow you.

As you join the alumni of the United States Naval War College, you can be assured that throughout the world there will be many friends sincerely interested in your achievements as you continue your military careers. Please take with you the best wishes of all of us for your continued success and well being. I congratulate each and every one of you on a job well done.